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Judith A. Monroe, M.D.
State Health Commissioner



Indiana State Department of Health

An Equal Opportunity Employer

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TO: Local Health Departments and Health Care Providers

FROM: Judith A. Monroe, M.D.
State Health Commissioner

SUBJECT: International Travel Clinics

The Indiana State Department of Health is seeking local health departments and physicians' offices to serve as international travel clinics. International travel clinics play a critical role in helping to prevent the importation of many infectious diseases into the United States.

More people are traveling internationally, for business and tourism, as well as to visit friends and family. People who were born outside of the U.S. often visit their country of origin with their young children. These travelers may not be aware of potential health risks involved, i.e., vaccine-preventable diseases such as hepatitis A, hepatitis B, measles, typhoid, yellow fever, polio, and rabies. Preventing several of these diseases involves receiving vaccines that are not routinely included in the childhood vaccination series. Preventing other illnesses, such as malaria, requires taking prophylactic medication. International travel clinics provide the necessary vaccinations and medications not readily available otherwise to travelers.

Currently, Indiana has 76 international travel clinics. However, these clinics are unequally distributed throughout the state. Residents in several rural counties must drive 100-plus miles to access a clinic and, therefore, may be less likely to obtain the vaccinations and medications necessary for international travel. The State of Indiana is in particular need of international travel clinics in Decatur, Elkhart, Franklin, Johnson, Morgan, Porter, Rush, Vigo, and Wayne Counties.

It is easy to serve as an international travel clinic, and participation requires very little time and funding. If you are interested in serving as an international travel clinic, please contact Mike Wilkinson, Public Health Investigator, Epidemiology Resource Center, Indiana State Department of Health, at 317.234.2827 or mwilkins@isdh.IN.gov.